

**Advisory Commission on the Environment
Minutes of Meeting
March 30, 2005**

Commissioners Present: Steve Hesse, Rita Kornblum, Mark Mitchell,
June O'Neil, Robert Pandolfo

Commissioners Excused: June Lyons

Commissioners Absent: Richard Parmlee, Jeannie Webb Chaves, Eddie Morales

Guests Present: Roger Reynolds (Connecticut Fund for the Environment), Roger Smith
(Clean Water Action)

Staff Present: Nancy Noli

A tour of MDC Sewage Treatment Plant began at 3:30.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were not available.

Presentation on Renewable Energy Options – Roger Smith

Mr. Smith explained the 20% by 2010 campaign to promote clean energy usage. It involves getting commitments from government agencies, businesses, and individuals to get 20% of their electric power from clean energy sources such as solar or wind by the year 2010. New Haven was the first city in New England to make this commitment, now many cities and the state government have taken the pledge. As of April 1, all Connecticut residents, businesses and governments will have the option of purchasing clean energy by checking off a 50% or 100% clean energy option in their April electric bill. He distributed pamphlets on renewable energy and announced that they will be holding a press event to raise awareness of this new option.

Old Business

A discussion of the tour of the MDC facilities began. The group was very pleased with the tour and the information that we obtained. It was pointed out that MDC has changed its position from defending its use of chlorine gas to seriously considering switching from using chlorine gas to using ultraviolet light as a disinfectant during the summer season. Rita suggested sending a thank you letter from ACOTE to commend Carl for such a great tour. The group wanted to revisit the sewage treatment facility in May or June to see the chlorine tanks in action, since they were not yet on site for the season.

Rita gave an update on Talking Trash Two, the meeting held at Keney Park Pond House to discuss alternatives to waste disposal in the Hartford Landfill. The meeting was well attended by interested parties. Rita went over the evaluation results. Respondents were generally pleased, although they thought the recycling presentation was too long. The next forum will be May 18, 2004 at Pope Park.

A discussion of new membership took place. There are four vacancies. Lists of potential candidates are: Bob Moore, Matt Nozzolio, or Carl Veilleux of the MDC; Linda Bayer of Hartford 2000; Keisha Freckleton of the Northeast Neighborhood NRZ; and Mary Sherwin of DEP. Two representatives from the business community are needed. Dr. Mitchell will call candidates listed to determine any interest and then we will send out applications.

A discussion began concerning a booth at "Earth Day". Rita is recruiting volunteers to be staff the ACOTE booth and to administer the ACOTE surveys.

State Legislative Agenda

The Overburdened Communities Bill was not passed out of the Environment Committee of the State Legislature. Senator Andrea Stillman (New London/Waterford) and the Commissioner of DEP said the language needs to be more specific.

The Hartford Streets Designated as State Roads also did not get out of the Transportation Committee, although it did have a public hearing, which is progress on this issue.

The Diesel Bills are still alive. They seem to have good support. One is to develop a strategy for reducing school bus, transit bus, and construction equipment emissions, another is to reduce the sulfur content of home heating oil, and the other bill is to make the three-minute idling regulation enforceable by local police,

Our Energy Conservation Committee met and discussed goals, in particular getting green building concepts (especially energy conservation) introduced in new construction and renovation at schools. Robert found out that there are 31 schools scheduled for renovation, and that 5 renovation projects are already underway and also 2 magnet schools will be built. Dr. Mitchell and Robert will meet with Councilman Painter regarding recommendations.

Rita will explore developing a web page on the City's website with ACOTE information. The Commission members suggested that the page contain the ACOTE mission, bylaws, contact information, schedule of meetings, links to organizations, minutes from meetings and ACOTE survey results.

Dr. Mitchell distributed the proposed bylaws. Robert noted that we have not previously adopted bylaws, therefore there is no requirement for a supermajority to pass them. Dr. Mitchell suggested an amendment to delete "The Secretary will contact by phone and" from Article IV, Section IV, paragraph 2 of the section on resignation of commissioners.

A motion to approve the bylaws as amended was made by Robert and Rita seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

A discussion began regarding the property on Battle and Windsor Streets, which was previously owned by Manafort Brothers and leased to the minority contractors who got a City zoning change to allow industrial uses next to residences, despite zoning staff recommendations to the contrary and community opposition. The property is being sold to a tow company and old cars are being stored there now.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.